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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Original) A medical implant or device at least partially fabricated from a metal alloy consisting essentially of
 - (a) 98.85 – 99.15 weight percent Niobium,
 - (b) 0.85 – 1.15 % weight percent Zirconium.
2. (Original) A medical implant or device according to claim 1 wherein said metal alloy consists essentially of
 - (a) 99.02 – 99.15 weight percent Niobium,
 - (b) 0.85 – 0.98 % weight percent Zirconium.
3. (Original) A medical implant or device according to claim 1 wherein said metal alloy consists essentially of
 - (a) 99.05 – 99.15 weight percent Niobium,
 - (b) 0.85 – 0.95 % weight percent Zirconium.
4. (Currently Amended) A medical implant or device according to any one of claims 1 to 3, ~~wherein the medical device~~ which is a ~~minimal-invasive device, in particular~~ a catheter or a guide wire.
5. (Currently Amended) A medical implant or device according to any one of the claims 1 to 3, ~~wherein the medical implant~~ which is an intra-cavernous implant.
6. (Currently Amended) A medical implant or device according to claim 5, wherein the ~~medical~~ intra-cavernous implant is an intravascular implant.

7. (Currently Amended) A medical implant or device according to claim 6, ~~wherein the medical implant~~ which is a stent, a stent graft, a stent graft connector or a heart valve repair device.
8. (Currently Amended) A ~~stent~~ medical implant or device according to claim 7, which is a stent composed of a single homogeneous, substantially non-decomposing tubing made from ~~the a metal alloy according to claim 1~~ consisting essentially of
 - (a) 98.85 – 99.15 weight percent Niobium,
 - (b) 0.85 – 1.15 % weight percent Zirconium.
9. (Currently Amended) A ~~stent~~ medical implant or device according to claim 8, which is a stent composed of a single homogeneous substantially non-decomposing sheet made from ~~the a metal alloy according to claim 1~~ consisting essentially of
 - (a) 98.85 – 99.15 weight percent Niobium,
 - (b) 0.85 – 1.15 % weight percent Zirconium.
10. (Original) A medical implant or device according to any one of claims 1 - 3, wherein the surface of the metal alloy is passivated by oxidation or nitridization.
11. (Original) A medical implant or device according to any one of claims 1 - 3, wherein the surface of the metal alloy is coated with iridium oxide by vapor deposition.
12. (Original) A medical implant or device according to any one of claims 1 - 3, wherein the surface of the metal alloy is electropolished, mechanically polished, micro blasted, roughened or sintered.
13. (Original) A medical implant or device according to any one of claims 1 - 3, wherein the surface of the metal alloy is coated with a polymer, a blend of polymers, a metal, a blend of metals, a ceramic and/or biomolecules, in particular peptides, proteins, lipids, carbohydrates and/or nucleic acids.

14. (Currently Amended) A medical implant or device according to any one of claims 1 - 3, wherein the surface of the metal alloy is coated with stem cells and/or a bioactive substance, ~~in particular drugs, antibiotics, growth factors, anti-inflammatory agents and/or anti-thrombogenic agents.~~
15. (New) A medical implant or device according to claim 14, wherein the surface of the metal alloy is coated with a bioactive substance selected from the group consisting of drugs, antibiotics, growth factors, anti-inflammatory agents and/or anti-thrombogenic agents.
16. (New) A method of implanting a medical implant into a patient's body, said method comprising implanting into the patient's body an implant at least partially fabricated from a metal alloy consisting essentially of
 - (a) 98.85 – 99.15 weight percent Niobium,
 - (b) 0.85 – 1.15 % weight percent Zirconium.
17. (New) A method according to claim 16, wherein the medical implant is a stent.
18. (New) A method according to claim 17, wherein the stent is composed of a single homogeneous, substantially non-decomposing tubing made from the metal alloy.
19. (New) A method according to claim 17, wherein the stent is composed of a single homogeneous substantially non-decomposing sheet made from the metal alloy.

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CONDITIONAL PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME

If entry and consideration of the amendments above requires an extension of time, Applicants respectfully request that this be considered a petition therefor. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any fee(s) due in this connection to Deposit Account No. 14-1263.

ADDITIONAL FEE

Please charge any insufficiency of fees, or credit any excess, to Deposit Account No. 14-1263.